

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 OMB-01 EB-11 COME-00 SAM-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 TRSE-00

CIEP-03 CU-05 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03 IO-14 SAB-01 DRC-01

/189 W

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R 181600Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6901

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR TS SS SP MO MR

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN POSITION ON SPANISH SAHARA

REF: TUNIS 5421 (NOTAL)

1. SEPTEMBER 17 PRESS PUBLISHED EXCERPTS FROM INTERVIEW GIVEN BY FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTI TO AL-HAYAT OF BEIRUT IN WHICH HE DISCUSSED GOT POSITION ON SETTLEMENT OF SPANISH SAHARA DISPUTE. CHATTI EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SETTLEMENT WILL ARISE FROM DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES, I.E., MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA ON ONE SIDE AND SPAIN ON THE OTHER. HE SAID TUNISIA SUPPORTS THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRINCIPLE CONTAINED IN UN RESOLUTION CALLING FOR

REFERDUM IN DISPUTED TERRITORY, BUT IS OPPOSED TO
OFFERING INDEPENDENCE AS AN OPTION. TUNISIA BELIEVES,
HE SAID, THAT THE BIRTH OF A STATE IN THIS AREA IS
IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE THERE ARE SO FEW INHABITANTS AND
BECAUSE OTHER CONDITIONS REREQUISITE TO STATEHOOD ARE
LACKING. CHATTI ADDED THAT IF THE TERRITORY IN QUESTION
BECOMES INDEPENDENT, "SPAIN WILL HAVE GONE OUT BY ONE
DOOR AND COME BACK IN BY ANOTHER".

2. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST TIME GOT HAS PUBLICLY GONE
BEYOND FORMULA OF SUPPORTING UN RESOLUTION AND
"LIBERATION" OF SPANISH SAHARA.
SEELYE

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30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
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